

Call for Papers
for the international conference
**Evaluation of Development Interventions - Current Debates,
Methods, and Best Practices**
Nov. 04-8, 2019

The Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE; Ruhr-University Bochum) is organising an international alumni conference titled “Evaluation of Development Interventions - Current Debates, Methods, and Best Practices” in Bochum (Germany) on the 4th-9th November of 2019. The conference is a collaboration between the MA programme in Development Management (MADM; IEE), the MA programme in International and Development Economics (MIDE; HTW Berlin), the Small Enterprise Promotion and Training Programme (SEPT; University of Leipzig), the MA programme in Development and Governance (Institute of Political Science (IfP); University of Duisburg-Essen), and the MA programme in International Relations and Development Policy (Institute for Development and Peace (INEF); University of Duisburg-Essen).

The proper evaluation of development interventions is essential for the reporting to the donor community and to society as well as for contributing to learning processes in the design and implementation of future interventions. The “Quality Standards for Development Evaluation”, provided by the Development Assistant Committee (DAC) of OECD, represent a significant base for the methodological design of evaluations. The application of an intervention logic with different result levels (Input → Activities → Output → Outcome (Use of Outputs) → Impact) is ubiquitous. Yet, in practice, the applied evaluation designs differ widely. Their foundations range from simple plausibility considerations for the intervention logic up to academic model-based theories. Accordingly, the applied evaluations are usually based on more or less complex logical frameworks, result chains, or scientific studies.

This conference is devoted to reflect how well typical evaluation practices yield the desired insights in the actual outcomes and impact of a development intervention. As such, it addresses questions such as: which evaluation designs are in principle appropriate for the assessment of a development intervention? Which factors are relevant for choosing the design? What different methods are applied in practice for assessing a project’s relevance,

efficiency, and effectiveness? How should we measure the impact and sustainability of an intervention, and how can appropriate steps be put in practice?

These questions will be discussed with international experts, alumni of the abovementioned Master programmes working related to this field, researchers, PhD candidates, and other practitioners. As such, the conference offers a wide range of network opportunities between experts, practitioners, and scientists.

The conference elaborates on these questions with keynote speeches, a panel discussion, and workshops. The workshops are focusing on four typical fields of development interventions (listed below). In each workshop, the participants conjointly reflect on appropriate evaluation methods based on a practical case study. For this purpose, the alumni of the abovementioned MA programmes are invited to propose a case study. Furthermore, the workshops provide room for discussing complex practical issues/topics brought forward by alumni for tapping the experiences of the other conference participants. Alumni will be invited to submit their questions prior the conference date.

The conference ends with a “Networking & Career Day”, offering room for networking with other alumni and current students of the master programmes.

The conference is financed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Foreign Office (AA).

Submission of Proposals:

This call addresses particularly alumni of the programmes MA in Development Management (MADM); MA in International and Development Economics (MIDE), Small Enterprise Promotion and Training Programme (SEPT), MA in Development and Governance (IfP), and MA in International Relations and Development Policy (INEF). Also, alumni of other development related MA programmes whose work is related to the conference topic, are warmly welcomed.

IEE and its collaboration partners invite alumni practitioners for submitting their applications, which are related to one of the four workshop topics (the final titles might be subject to change pending the submitted alumni proposals):

- 1) Evaluation of democratization and governance projects
- 2) Evaluation of private sector related activities
- 3) Evaluation of growth and poverty reduction measures
- 4) Evaluation of food security and agricultural sector development interventions

For applying for the conference, please send the filled application form via E-mail to Dr. Gabriele Bäcker (iee-conference@rub.de) by 23rd of June 2019. Additional documents can be submitted as attachments to your mail, if required.

Alumni of the conference's MA programme partners (MADM, MIDE, SEPT, MA programme in Development and Governance, MA programme in International Relations and Development Policy) please use the application form under this [link](#). The link includes additional information for alumni. All other interested practitioners, please use the application form below.

In order to facilitate a flawless organisation of your conference participation, please use consistently one E-mail-address for communicating with the conference team.

Invitation to the Conference:

Participants will be selected for the respective workshops by a board of reviewers of the partner institutions based on the submitted applications. Selected alumni of the abovementioned MA programmes will receive an invitation to the conference by the 31st of July 2019. Alumni, whose proposed case study has been selected for being applied in one of the workshops, will be notified. Other practitioners, e.g. from MA programmes of the AGEP network, are warmly invited to submit their participation application, too (without a case study proposal).

Costs and Funding:

No conference fee is charged. Invited participants who are international alumni of the conference partner programmes (MADM, MIDE, SEPT, MA programme in Development and Governance, MA programme in International Relations and Development Policy) will receive funding for their flight to the conference, visa fees, and for accommodation during the conference. Candidates who are not alumni of these programmes can unfortunately not receive financial support for their participation.

Further Information and Contact Details:

Please find up-to-date information about the conference on the website of the IEE (www.development-research.org). If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the address iee-conference@rub.de.

International Alumni Conference

Evaluation of Development Interventions - Current Debates, Methods, and Best Practices

- Birth name (given family surname):
- Surname:
- Middle name(s) (if existing):
- First name:
- Sex:
- Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy):
- Nationality:
- Current residence country:
- Current employer:
- Professional position:
- German programme and university in which you studied:
- Year of graduation:

- **Letter of motivation** (required; max. 400 words): please describe your professional affiliation with the conference topic, preferably with a brief illustration of your role in the evaluation of a development intervention. Please also state in which workshop you are interested.

- **Workshop topic** you are specifically interested in (please choose only **ONE** of the mentioned topics):
 - Evaluation of democratization and governance projects
 - Evaluation of private sector related activities
 - Evaluation of growth and poverty reduction measures
 - Evaluation of food security and agricultural sector development interventions